United Nations A/73/535

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 17

Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for sustainable development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 18th, 23rd and 26th meetings, on 19 October and on 8 and 30 November 2018. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1] Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, on 8, 9 and 10 October.[2]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/73/66-E/2018/10);

(b) Letter dated 4 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the forty-second annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 27 September 2018 (A/73/417);

(c) Letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.18, A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.26.
[2] See A/C.2/73/SR.2, A/C.2/73/SR.3, A/C.2/73/SR.4, A/C.2/73/SR.5 and A/C.2/73/SR.6.

Please recycle

Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held in New York on 26 September 2018 (A/73/455).

4. At the 18th meeting, on 19 October, the Director of the Technology and Logistics Division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made an introductory statement and subsequently responded to comments made and questions posed by the representative of Mexico.

5. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.[3]

6. At the 27th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions adopted by the Committee.[4]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.29 and A/C.2/73/L.29/Rev.1 and amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.55

7. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Information and communications technologies for sustainable development" (A/C.2/73/L.29).

8. At its 26th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/73/L.29/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.29.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, made a statement and introduced proposed amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.29/Rev.1, as contained in document A/C.2/73/L.55.[5]

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the proposed amendments had no programme budget implications.

11. Also at its 26th meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.55 by a recorded vote of 106 to 45, with 11 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China,

[3] See A/C.2/73/SR.23.
[4] See A/C.2/73/SR.27.
[5] See A/C.2/73/SR.26.

Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Turkey.

12. At the same meeting, after the vote, the representative of Egypt made a statement in explanation of vote, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

13. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States members of the European Union.

14. Also at its 26th meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.29/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications

15. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement and orally revised the eighteenth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

16. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.29/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 17).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

17. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010, 66/184 of 22 December 2011, 67/195 of 21 December 2012, 68/198 of 20 December 2013, 69/204 of 19 December 2014, 70/184 of 22 December 2015, 71/212 of 21 December 2016 and 72/200 of 20 December 2017,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, 2011/16 of 26 July 2011, 2012/5 of 24 July 2012, 2013/9 of 22 July 2013, 2014/27 of 16 July 2014, 2015/26 of 22 July 2015, 2016/22 of 27 July 2016 and 2018/28 of 24 July 2018, and taking note of Council resolution 2017/21 of 6 July 2017 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming also the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[1]

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and

[1] Resolution 71/256, annex.

innovation for development and as a forum in the examination of science and technology questions and the role of science and technology as enablers for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the advancement of understanding of science and technology policies, particularly in respect of developing countries, and the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters for development within the United Nations system,

Recognizing also the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recognizing further the role of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which includes the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the online platform, as a tool to facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders in order to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[2] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[3] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[4] and endorsed by the Assembly,[5]

Noting the references to information and communications technologies contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and reiterating calls for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda, as well as other relevant intergovernmental outcomes,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[6] held in New York on 15 and 16 December 2015, in which it took stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, addressed potential information and communications technology gaps and identified areas for continued focus,

Reaffirming its common desire and commitment to the World Summit on the Information Society vision as laid out in the Geneva Declaration of Principles,

Recognizing that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies, stressing the need to address prevailing challenges to bridge the digital divides, both between and within countries and between women and men, and between girls and boys, and to harness information and communications technologies for development, and recalling the need to emphasize quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability,

[2] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.
[3] See resolution 59/220.
[4] See A/60/687.
[5] See resolution 60/252.
[6] Resolution 70/125.

affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[7]

Noting the call for the continuation of annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Economic and Social Council, and reaffirming the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit,

Noting also the holding of the twenty-first session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 14 to 18 May 2018, and looking forward to the twenty-second session, which will have as priority themes "The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development" and "The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science", thus providing a platform for all stakeholders to share experiences and pursue partnerships for capacity-building,

Welcoming the launch by the Secretary-General of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, which will present its recommendations for effective and inclusive systems of digital cooperation among all relevant actors in the digital space, in 2019,

Noting the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme,

Taking note of the report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development entitled *The State of Broadband 2018: Broadband Catalysing Sustainable Development*, which provides an evaluation of the progress made towards achieving the Broadband Commission's advocacy targets for broadband and the state of broadband development worldwide, noting the need to bridge digital divides, and taking note of the report of the special session of the Commission, entitled "Working together to connect the next 1.5 billion by 2020", in which the Commission noted that less than half the world's population is currently connected to the Internet and fewer than 1 in 10 people in the least developed countries are connected,

Recognizing the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, by lowering barriers to economic participation, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

Stressing, however, that recent progress notwithstanding, important and growing digital divides remain between and within developed and developing countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, stressing also the urgent need to close digital divides, including with regard to such issues as the affordability of the

[7] A/73/66-E/2018/10.

Internet, and to ensure that the benefits of information and communications technologies, including new technologies, are available to all, in this regard reaffirming its commitment to significantly increase access to information and communications technologies and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries by 2020, and noting the many efforts to help bridge digital divides and expand access, including the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technologies Development,

Taking note of the Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and the recommendations for action in bridging the gender digital divide contained in its progress report, namely, understanding the context of the divide through sex-disaggregated data, integrating a gender perspective into strategies, policies, plans and budgets, addressing barriers, including access, affordability, safety, digital skills and relevance, and collaboration and sharing good practices, and taking note further of the report of the Working Group on Education of the Broadband Commission entitled "Digital skills for life and work", which highlights the emergence of a new global skills gap in which gender, class, geography and age can have a significant impact on whether a person is able to harness new technologies and presents strategies for ensuring that all groups of people can develop those skills,

Recognizing that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasizing the need to target science, technology and innovation strategies to address the empowerment of women and girls and to reduce inequalities, including the gender digital divide,

Noting with great concern the fact that a gender digital divide persists in women's access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and in this regard welcoming the many initiatives that focus on access, skills and leadership to promote the equal participation of women and girls in the digital age such as the International Girls in ICT Day of the International Telecommunication Union and the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, known as the Equals Partnership,

Recognizing the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support, with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society,

Noting that a range of topics continues to emerge on issues related to the access to, use and applications of information and communications technologies and their effects on economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Reaffirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and emphasizing that progress towards the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society should be considered not only as a function of economic development and the spreading of information and communications technologies but also as a function of progress with respect to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also that Internet governance, including the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm, el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010, in Nairobi in 2011, in Baku in 2012, in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014, in João Pessoa, Brazil, in 2015, in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2016, in Geneva in 2017 and in Paris in 2018, and looking forward to the meeting of the Internet Governance Forum to be held in Berlin in 2019,

Welcoming also the establishment of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, based on the proposal by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding the structure and composition of the Working Group, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2017/21,

Noting that information and communications technologies can help accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, and noting also that, inter alia, the International Telecommunications Union has an important role in supporting Member States in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting also the convening of the World Telecommunication Development Conference by the International Telecommunication Union in Buenos Aires, from 9 to 20 October 2017, under the theme of "Information and communications technology for Sustainable Development Goals",

Noting further that technological change includes new and powerful tools for development, and mindful of its impacts, opportunities and challenges and that Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society and the technical and academic communities should take into account the social, economic, ethical, cultural and technical issues related to rapid technological advancements in order to deepen their understanding of how to harness their potential to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception, and recognizing that the effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, within their respective roles and responsibilities, especially with balanced representation from developing countries, have been and continue to be vital in developing the information society,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States in preventing and combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, including by terrorists, and emphasizing the need to continue international cooperation in this regard and to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities, at their request, for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such use in accordance with national and international law,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the

context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both the public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interactions, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

3. *Recognizes* the potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[5] and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, accordingly urges all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and requests United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to bridging digital and knowledge divides, recognizes that its approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access, and acknowledges that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of quality and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development;

5. *Stresses* the important role played by the private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

6. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities, to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva[2] and Tunis[4] phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

7. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Also notes* that the digital economy is an important and growing part of the global economy and that connectivity is correlated with increases in gross domestic product, and recognizes the critical importance of expanding the

[5] Resolution 70/1.

participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy;

9. *Urges* a continued focus on maximizing development gains from e-commerce, through initiatives such as eTrade for All, launched at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes that they could fund;

10. *Recognizes* in this regard that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has initiated and implemented rapid e-trade readiness assessments of least developed countries in cooperation with other donors and organizations in order to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges related to leveraging e-commerce in the least developed countries;

11. *Welcomes* the holding of the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on e-Commerce and the Digital Economy, its policy recommendations and its decision to recommend to the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development the establishment of a working group on measuring e-commerce and the digital economy;[9]

12. *Also welcomes* the holding of e-Commerce Week from 16 to 20 April 2018, with the theme of "Development dimensions of digital platforms", and looks forward to the first Africa e-Commerce Week, to be held in Nairobi from 10 to 14 December 2018;

13. *Further welcomes* the work of the Information for All Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which aims to assist Member States in formulating policies to bridge digital divides and ensure equitable knowledge societies, and also welcomes the holding of Global Media and Information Literacy Week from 24 to 31 October 2018;

14. *Recognizes* that, despite recent progress and significant gains, there is still uneven growth in access to and use of information and communications technologies, and expresses concern over the substantial continued digital and broadband divides between and within developed and developing countries, including the fact that there are 97 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people in developed countries, compared with 48 in developing countries and less than 22 in the least developed countries, and that the cost of access is higher in developing countries in relation to average household income, resulting in a lack of affordable access to information and communications technologies;

15. *Encourages* research and development, and the development of viable strategies that could result in further competitiveness, investment and rapid reductions in the cost of information and communications technologies, and urges all relevant stakeholders to address the growing digital divides between and within countries through, inter alia , strengthened enabling policy environments at all levels, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and international cooperation to improve affordability, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

16. *Recognizes* that a gender digital divide persists and that the proportion of women using the Internet is 12 per cent lower than that of men worldwide and 33 per

[9] See TD/B/EDE/1/3, chap. I, para. 12.

cent lower in the least developed countries, notes with concern that, while the gender digital divide has narrowed in many regions since 2013, it has widened overall, in particular in the least developed countries and in Africa, in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to information and communications technologies for development, including new technologies, in this respect reiterates its request for relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to support the implementation and monitoring of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society by enhancing the emphasis on gender, and reaffirms the commitment to ensure women's full participation in decision-making processes related to information and communications technologies;

17. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;[7]

18. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

19. *Acknowledges* the extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum through 2025, as set out in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;[6]

20. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,4 including discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum,[10] in particular those on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

21. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of Governments and stakeholders from all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

22. *Notes* the work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125, to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, and also notes that the Working Group ensured the full involvement of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise;

[10] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1.

23. *Also notes* that the Working Group held five meetings between September 2016 and January 2018 at which it discussed inputs from Member States and other stakeholders, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125;

24. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Working Group,[11] which includes references to the full texts of all proposals and contributions, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and all participants who submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

25. *Welcomes* the good progress made by the Working Group in many areas and the fact that consensus seemed to emerge on some issues, while significant divergence of views in a number of other issues persisted, and in that regard regrets that the Working Group could not find agreement on recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda;

26. *Calls* for continued dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation as envisaged in the Tunis Agenda;

27. *Recognizes* that a lack of access to affordable and reliable technologies and services remains a critical challenge in many developing countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters, and that all efforts should be deployed to reduce the price of information and communications technologies and broadband access, bearing in mind that deliberate interventions, including through research and development and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, may be necessary to spur the development of lower-cost connectivity options;

28. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in engaging with and accessing new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, setting standards and technology flows, and in this regard urges all stakeholders to ensure adequate means of implementation, including strengthened capacity-building of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

29. *Further recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome digital divides, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[12]

30. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technologies has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

31. *Recognizes* the importance of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to address the challenges and opportunities in relation

[11] See E/CN.16/2018/CRP.3.

[12] Resolution 69/313, annex.

to the use of the Internet and e-commerce to develop their international trade capacities, among other things;

32. *Also recognizes* the importance of the free flow of information and knowledge, as the amount of information distributed worldwide grows and the role of communication becomes all the more important, and acknowledges that the mainstreaming of information and communications technologies in school curricula, open access to data, the fostering of competition, the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, proportionate taxation and licensing fees, access to finance, the facilitation of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder cooperation, national and regional broadband strategies, efficient allocation of the radio frequency spectrum, infrastructure-sharing models, community-based approaches and public access facilities have in many countries facilitated significant gains in connectivity and sustainable development;

33. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries and, in turn, building information and knowledge societies;

34. *Notes* the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes that official development assistance and other concessional financial flows for information and communications technologies can make significant contributions to development outcomes, in particular where they can reduce the risk of public and private investment, and increase the use of information and communications technologies to strengthen good governance and tax collection;

35. *Recognizes* the critical importance of private sector investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, content and services, encourages Governments to create legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, and also recognizes the importance of public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and other approaches to that end;

36. *Welcomes* the holding of the third annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development, takes note of its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, looks forward to further advancement in the follow-up process, and welcomes the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the third annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

37. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the review process of the World Summit on the Information Society, the summary by the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for

the Sustainable Development Goals[13] and other relevant processes, as part of his annual report on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

39. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session an item entitled "Information and communications technologies for sustainable development", unless otherwise agreed.

[13] E/HLPF/2017/4.

United Nations A/73/536

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 18

Macroeconomic policy questions

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled:

> "Macroeconomic policy questions:
>
> "(a) International trade and development;
>
> "(b) International financial system and development;
>
> "(c) External debt sustainability and development;
>
> "(d) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 8th and 9th meetings, on 11 October 2018. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1] Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, on 8, 9 and 10 October.[2] An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item is provided in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols A/73/536, A/73/536/Add.1, A/73/536/Add.2, A/73/536/Add.3 and A/73/536/Add.4.

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.8 and A/C.2/73/SR.9.

[2] See A/C.2/73/SR.2, A/C.2/73/SR.3, A/C.2/73/SR.4, A/C.2/73/SR.5 and A/C.2/73/SR.6.

18-21434 (E) 121218

Please recycle

Item 18
Macroeconomic policy questions

Letter dated 4 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the forty-second annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 27 September 2018 (A/73/417)

Letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held in New York on 26 September 2018 (A/73/455)

Item 18 (a)
International trade and development

Report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development (A/73/208)

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-sixth executive session, Geneva, 5–7 February 2018 (A/73/15 (Part I))

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fifth session, part 1, Geneva, 4–8 June 2018 (A/73/15 (Part II))

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its resumed sixty-fifth session, part 1, Geneva, 25 and 26 June 2018 (A/73/15 (Part III))

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fifth session, part 2, Geneva, 1–4 October 2018 (A/73/15 (Part IV))

Item 18 (b)
International financial system and development

Report of the Secretary-General on the international financial system and development (A/73/280)

Item 18 (c)
External debt sustainability and development

Report of the Secretary-General on external debt sustainability and development (A/73/180)

Item 18 (d)
Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development

No documents were submitted under this sub-item

4. At its 8th meeting, on 11 October, the Committee heard introductory statements by the President of the Trade and Development Board, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (under item 18 (a)); the Director of the Division on International Trade and Commodities, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (under item 18 (a)); and the representatives of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under item 18 (b)), and the Debt and Development Finance Branch, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (under item 18 (c)).

5. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.[3]

6. At the 27th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions adopted by the Committee.[4]

---

[3] See A/C.2/73/SR.23.

[4] See A/C.2/73/SR.27.

United Nations A/73/536/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 18 (a)

Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 18 (see A/73/536, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 23rd and 26th meetings, on 8 and 30 November 2018. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.21 and A/C.2/73/L.21/Rev.1 and amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.56

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International trade and development" (A/C.2/73/L.21).

3. At its 26th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/73/L.21/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.21.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, made a statement and introduced proposed amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.21/Rev.1, as contained in document A/C.2/73/L.56.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols A/73/536, A/73/536/Add.1, A/73/536/Add.2, A/73/536/Add.3 and A/73/536/Add.4.

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.26.

18-21441 (E) 121218

Please recycle

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the proposed amendments had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 26th meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.56 by a recorded vote of 108 to 46, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Equatorial Guinea, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

7. At the same meeting, after the vote, the representative of Egypt made a statement in explanation of vote, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

8. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States members of the European Union.

9. Also at its 26th meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.21/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.21/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 172 to 1 (see para. 13). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State

of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

11. Also at the same meeting, before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Singapore, also on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

12. Also at the 26th meeting, after the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representative of the United States of America and by the representative of Austria (on behalf of the States members of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 63/203 of 19 December 2008, 66/185 of 22 December 2011, 67/196 of 21 December 2012, 68/199 of 20 December 2013, 69/205 of 19 December 2014, 70/187 of 22 December 2015, 71/214 of 21 December 2016 and 72/202 of 20 December 2017,

Taking note of its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, and its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that international trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development and that it is recognized as one of the action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and one of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recognizing also the need to ensure that the benefits of trade are more widely shared,

Recognizing further that multilateral rules and disciplines are the best guarantee against protectionism and are fundamental to the transparency, predictability and stability of international trade,

Recognizing the critical role of women as producers and traders and the need to address their specific challenges in order to facilitate women's equal and active participation in domestic, regional and international trade,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development[1] and the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Reiterates* that Member States will not be able to achieve the ambitious Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] without a revitalized and enhanced global partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation, and that a revitalized global partnership will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources;

3. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development, while taking note of its possible catalytic effect towards structural transformation and industrialization, particularly in developing countries;

4. *Also reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[4] in, inter alia, international trade as an important action area for sustainable development;

5. *Further reaffirms* that the gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, and notes the need for a broader use of gender impact assessments of trade policies before, during and after their implementation;

6. *Reaffirms* that global collective action through multilateral trade cooperation is essential in tackling challenges to development, that revitalizing a global partnership is critical for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and that the multilateral trading system continues to be the cornerstone of such a partnership and should be regarded as a global public good;

7. *Recognizes* that the World Trade Organization is increasingly affected by insufficient progress in multilateral trade negotiations and that it is imperative for the World Trade Organization to address issues that are at the heart of current problems in international trade, and recognizes in this regard the need to strengthen that organization, with a view to ensuring the continued viability and effectiveness of its dispute settlement, negotiating and monitoring functions;

8. *Calls upon* all members of the World Trade Organization to conclude negotiations on fisheries subsidies in 2019, consistent with the instructions from the

[1] A/73/15 (Part I) and A/73/15 (Part II).
[2] A/73/208.
[3] Resolution 70/1.
[4] Resolution 69/313, annex.

eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and with a view to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals;

9. *Recommits* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to combat protectionism in all its forms and to rectify any trade-distorting measures that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization agreements, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations, and recognizes that the work of the World Trade Organization shall maintain development at its centre, with provisions for special and differential treatment remaining integral;

11. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect, in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;

12. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization on 22 February 2017, calls upon members of the World Trade Organization that have not yet done so to ratify the Agreement, and stresses the importance of providing developing and least developed countries with assistance and support for capacity-building in implementing the Agreement;

13. *Notes* the commitments to working to ensure that bilateral, regional and plurilateral trade agreements complement the multilateral trading system, and recognizes that they can play an important role in complementing global liberalization initiatives;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating the accession of developing countries to the World Trade Organization, recognizing the contribution that their accession would make to the rapid and full integration of those countries into the multilateral trading system, urges in this regard the acceleration of the accession process on a technical and legal basis and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries that have applied for membership in the World Trade Organization, and reaffirms the importance of that organization's decision WT/L/508/Add.1 of 25 July 2012 on accession by the least developed countries;

15. *Takes note* of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi in July 2016, as well as the outcome of the eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Buenos Aires from 10 to 13 December 2017, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the meeting;

16. *Looks forward* to the convening of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Astana from 8 to 11 June 2020, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the meeting;

17. *Recalls* the importance of members of the World Trade Organization working together with a view to achieving positive outcomes at the twelfth Ministerial Conference and beyond in a balanced, inclusive and transparent way, with a sense of urgency and solidarity, and to further working to strengthen the World Trade Organization;

18. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the

integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, and in contributing to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

19. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective, with particular attention to its potential contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, and to monitor and assess persistent and emerging development challenges to trade from a sustainable development perspective, in accordance with its mandate;

20. *Recognizes* the commitment to continue to address the needs of small, vulnerable economies and to favourably consider the adoption of such measures as would facilitate their fuller integration into the multilateral trading system, taking into account the needs of small, vulnerable economies in all areas of negotiations, without creating a subcategory of members of the World Trade Organization, and in this regard encourages progress on the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, which supports their efforts towards sustainable development, as also reflected in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;[5]

21. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Takes note* of the advances by the Enhanced Integrated Framework in supporting the least developed countries in their use of trade as an engine of growth and as a means of achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction;

23. *Highlights* the importance of promoting the integration of least developed countries into the international trading system, including by doubling their share of world exports by 2020, as recognized in Sustainable Development Goal 17, and in this regard calls for greater efforts in implementing fully the duty-free, quota-free market access initiatives for least developed countries and strengthened efforts to operationalize the World Trade Organization services waiver for least developed countries, consistent with that organization's decision WT/MIN(15)/48-WT/L/982 of 19 December 2015 on the implementation of preferential treatment in favour of services and service suppliers of least developed countries and increasing their participation in services trade;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on developments in the international trading system, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, in line with the content of paragraph 19 above, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International trade and development", unless otherwise agreed.

---

[5] Resolution 69/15, annex.

United Nations A/73/536/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 18 (b)

Macroeconomic policy questions: international financial system and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 18 (see A/73/536, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 23rd and 26th meetings, on 8 and 30 November 2018. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.12 and A/C.2/73/L.12/Rev.1

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International financial system and development" (A/C.2/73/L.12).

3. At its 26th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/73/L.12/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.12.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.12/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.12/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 176 to 1 (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols A/73/536, A/73/536/Add.1, A/73/536/Add.2, A/73/536/Add.3 and A/73/536/Add.4.

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.26.

Please recycle

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstentions:

None.

6. Also at the 26th meeting, after the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the States members of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine) and the United States of America.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International financial system and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/186 of 20 December 2000 and 56/181 of 21 December 2001, entitled "Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity", as well as its resolutions 57/241 of 20 December 2002, 58/202 of 23 December 2003, 59/222 of 22 December 2004, 60/186 of 22 December 2005, 61/187 of 20 December 2006, 62/185 of 19 December 2007, 63/205 of 19 December 2008, 64/190 of 21 December 2009, 65/143 of 20 December 2010, 66/187 of 22 December 2011, 67/197 of 21 December 2012, 68/201 of 20 December 2013, 69/206 of 19 December 2014, 70/188 of 22 December 2015, 71/215 of 21 December 2016 and 72/203 of 20 December 2017,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Rio Declaration on

[1] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[2] Resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Environment and Development,[4] Agenda 21,[5] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[6] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[7]

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[8] recognizing the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference, and taking note of its progress report,[9]

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[10]

Appreciating the fact that the Summit of the Group of 20, held in Hangzhou, China, on 4 and 5 September 2016, the first Summit of the Group of 20 to take place in a developing country following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the broad participation of developing countries, including the Chair of the Group of 77, endorsed the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an important contribution to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recalling that the Summit of the Group of 20, held in Hamburg, Germany, on 7 and 8 July 2017, endorsed the Hamburg Update: Taking Forward the Group of 20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and looking forward to their implementation, while urging the Group of 20 to continue to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with other States Members of the United Nations in its work in order to ensure that the initiatives of the Group of 20 complement or strengthen the United Nations system,

Noting the holding of the twenty-second Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 24 to 26 May 2018,

Recognizing that the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis have the potential to undermine debt sustainability and progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, especially in developing countries, and stressing the need to avoid the recurrence of such crises, including by addressing the lessons learned, improving confidence, sustaining economic growth and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people, older persons and people with disabilities, and by continuing to promote global economic stability and the underlying institutional reforms required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy, the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, increasing protectionism and inward-looking policies, with increasing systemic risks that threaten financial stability, including in developing countries,

---

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[8] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[9] A/64/884.

[10] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Reaffirming the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in its Charter, including to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends, and reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting development,

Recognizing the contribution of the original and reconvened Panel of Eminent Persons of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the context of the United Nations sustainable development pillar and United Nations reform, as well as the contribution of the United Nations system to sustainable finance and investments in the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing also the contribution of the independent team of advisers to the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Emphasizing that the international financial system should bolster sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, sustainable development and job creation, promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and hunger, in particular in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

Taking note of the work of the United Nations in the area of external debt sustainability and development,

Recognizing the importance of scaling up international tax cooperation, and in this regard welcoming the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the support to tax authorities of developing countries through the Addis Tax Initiative, which contribute to the mobilization of domestic resources for the Sustainable Development Goals and the curbing of illicit financial flows and tax evasion,

Recognizing also the need to reduce mechanistic reliance on credit-rating agency assessments, including in regulations, and to promote increased competition as well as measures to avoid conflict of interest in the provision of credit ratings in order to improve the quality of ratings, acknowledging the efforts of the Financial Stability Board and others in this area, expressing support for establishing greater transparency requirements for evaluation standards of credit-rating agencies, and affirming the commitment to continue ongoing work on these issues,

Acknowledging the 2016 implementation of quota and governance reforms at the International Monetary Fund and the 2018 agreement on shareholding reforms at the World Bank Group, including a general capital increase, a selective capital increase and a financial sustainability framework, and acknowledging also that, in October 2016, the Chinese renminbi officially became the fifth currency in the special drawing rights basket, pursuant to the decision taken by the Executive Board of the Fund in November 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Recognizes* the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, reiterates the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national efforts to ensure sustainable development, including strong, sustained, balanced, inclusive and equitable economic growth, and that all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic

[11] A/73/280.

resources and appropriate financial services, and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[12] and encourages the international financial institutions to align their programmes and policies with the 2030 Agenda in accordance with their mandates;

3. *Notes* that the United Nations, on the basis of its universal membership and legitimacy, provides a unique and key forum for discussing international economic issues and their impact on development, and reaffirms that the United Nations is well positioned to participate in various reform processes aimed at improving and strengthening the effective functioning of the international financial system and architecture, while recognizing that the United Nations and the international financial institutions have complementary mandates that make the coordination of their actions crucial;

4. *Recognizes* the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the latest global financial and economic crisis, and also recognizes that more needs to be done in order to promote the economic recovery, to manage the consequences of volatility in global financial and commodity markets, to tackle high unemployment and indebtedness in several countries, as well as widespread fiscal strains, to reinforce the banking sector, including by increasing its transparency and accountability, to address systemic fragilities and imbalances, to reform and strengthen the international financial system and to continue and to enhance the coordination of financial and economic policies at the international level;

5. *Stresses* the critical importance of a stable, inclusive and enabling global economic environment for the advancement of sustainable development, for the reliable and effective financing of development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private, as well as domestic and international resources;

6. *Reiterates* that debtors and creditors must work together in a transparent manner to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations and that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, acknowledging, however, that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, and in this regard takes note of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing and recognizes the applicable requirements of the International Monetary Fund debt limits policy and/or the World Bank non-concessional borrowing policy, as well as the safeguards of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in its statistical system to enhance the debt sustainability of recipient countries, and will work towards a global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives;

7. *Invites*, in this regard, the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give appropriate consideration to the central role of maintaining and facilitating the financial and macroeconomic stability of developing countries, including debt sustainability, and of supporting an appropriately enabling domestic and international economic, financial and regulatory environment for the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including financial inclusion, and in this regard invites all major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

[12] Resolution 70/1.

8. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its annual forum on financing for development follow-up, a discussion and analysis of systemic issues and challenges, taking into account the roles of the international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with their respective mandates, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on this matter, including its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein;

9. *Resolves* to strengthen the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade and development policy and environment institutions and platforms and to increase cooperation between major international institutions, while respecting mandates and governance structures, and commits itself to taking better advantage of relevant United Nations forums for promoting universal and holistic coherence and international commitments to sustainable development, building on the vision of the Monterrey Consensus, with a view to supporting the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Recalls* that countries must have the flexibility necessary to implement countercyclical measures and pursue tailored and targeted responses to the various types of shocks, including economic and financial crises, and calls for conditionalities to be streamlined to ensure that they are timely, tailored and targeted and that they support developing countries in the face of financial, economic and development challenges;

11. *Notes*, in this regard, the increase in resources and the improvement of the lending framework of the International Monetary Fund through, inter alia, streamlined conditions and flexible instruments, such as the precautionary and liquidity line, the flexible credit line and the rapid financing instrument, and the refinement of the lending framework for low-income countries, while also noting that new and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted procyclical conditionalities;

12. *Invites* the multilateral development banks and other international development banks to continue to provide both concessional and non-concessional, stable, long-term development finance by leveraging contributions and capital and by mobilizing resources for developing countries from multiple sources, for example from capital markets, and stresses that development banks should make optimal use of their resources and balance sheets, consistent with maintaining their financial integrity, and should update and develop their policies in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as appropriate;

13. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the ongoing work of the New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in the global development finance architecture, and encourages enhanced regional and subregional cooperation, including through regional and subregional development banks, commercial and reserve currency arrangements and other regional and subregional initiatives;

14. *Encourages*, in this regard, the multilateral development banks to continue to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded assistance that will substantially and quickly assist developing countries facing financing gaps in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into consideration the individual absorptive capacities and debt sustainability of those countries;

15. *Also encourages* multilateral development banks, within their respective mandates, to continue to expand technical assistance, disseminate and share their

knowledge and best practices and enhance the multiplier effect of their financing by leveraging more resources from more sources, including by mobilizing private investment, to provide innovative and integral solutions to multidimensional development problems, in particular in developing and emerging economies;

16. *Emphasizes* the relevance of inclusion in the international financial system at all levels and the importance of considering financial inclusion as a policy objective in financial regulation, in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

17. *Recognizes* that it is important that the International Monetary Fund continue to be adequately resourced, and supports and reiterates its commitment to further governance reform at both the Fund and the World Bank to adapt to changes in the global economy;

18. *Calls for* the completion of the fifteenth general review of quotas of the International Monetary Fund, including a new quota formula, at the meetings of the Fund and the World Bank Group to be held in the spring of 2019, and no later than at the annual meetings of the Fund and the Group in 2019, emphasizes that the new quota formula, as a basis for a realignment of quota shares, will result in increased shares for dynamic economies in line with their relative positions in the world economy and hence likely in the share of emerging market and developing countries as a whole, while protecting the voice and representation of the poorest members, and supports the continued examination of the broader use of special drawing rights as a way to enhance the resilience of the international monetary system;

19. *Acknowledges* the importance of the international financial institutions supporting, in line with their mandates, the policy space of each country, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, in particular developing countries, and recommits to the broadening and strengthening of the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance;

20. *Reaffirms* that cohesive, nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of efforts, reiterates that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, expresses respect for each country's policy space and leadership to implement policies for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and for sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, at the same time recognizes that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance, and that processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, as well as capacity-building, are also critical, and commits to pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development;

21. *Recommits* to a redoubling of its efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation;

22. *Recognizes* the role of special drawing rights as an international reserve asset, acknowledges that special drawing rights allocations helped to supplement international reserves in response to the world financial and economic crisis, thus contributing to the stability of the international financial system and global economic resilience, and supports the continued examination of the broader use of special drawing rights as a way to enhance the resilience of the international monetary system, including with reference to their potential role in the international reserve system;

23. *Takes note* of the work by the Financial Stability Board on financial market reform, commits to sustaining or strengthening frameworks for macroprudential regulation and countercyclical buffers, reaffirms the commitment to hasten completion of the reform agenda on financial market regulation, including assessing and if necessary reducing the systemic risks associated with non-bank financial intermediation, markets for derivatives, securities lending and repurchase agreements, and also reaffirms the commitment to addressing the risk created by "too-big-to-fail" financial institutions and to addressing cross-border elements in effective resolution of troubled, systemically important financial institutions;

24. *Reiterates* that effective, inclusive multilateral surveillance should be at the centre of crisis prevention efforts, stresses the need to continue to strengthen surveillance of the financial policies of countries, and in this regard notes the current efforts to update the surveillance approach of the International Monetary Fund to better integrate bilateral and multilateral surveillance, along with cross-border and cross-sectoral linkages with macroeconomic and macroprudential policies, while paying closer attention to the spillover effects from national economic and financial policies onto the global economy;

25. *Also reiterates* the need to resolve to reduce mechanistic reliance on credit-rating agency assessments, including in regulations and to promote increased competition as well as measures to avoid conflict of interest in the provision of credit ratings;

26. *Invites* the international financial and banking institutions to continue to enhance the transparency and analytical rigour of risk-rating mechanisms, noting that sovereign risk assessments should maximize the use of objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis, and encourages relevant institutions, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue their work on the issue, including the potential impact of the role played by private credit rating agencies on the development prospects of developing countries, in accordance with their mandates;

27. *Welcomes* efforts by new development banks to develop safeguard systems in open consultation with stakeholders on the basis of established international standards, and encourages all development banks to establish or maintain social and environmental safeguard systems, including on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, that are transparent, effective, efficient and time-sensitive;

28. *Recognizes* the need for the international financial institutions, as appropriate, to promote gender mainstreaming in their policies and programmes, including macroeconomic, job creation and structural reform policies and programmes, in accordance with relevant national priorities and strategies;

29. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions and regional development banks, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

30. *Recommits* itself to enabling women's full and equal participation in the economy and their equal access to decision-making processes and leadership;

31. *Reiterates* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

32. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution with input from the major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with their respective mandates;

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International financial system and development", unless otherwise agreed.

United Nations A/73/536/Add.3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 18 (c)

Macroeconomic policy questions: external debt sustainability and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 18 (see A/73/536, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 23rd and 27th meetings, on 8 November and 3 December 2018. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.11 and A/C.2/73/L.50

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "External debt sustainability and development" (A/C.2/73/L.11).

3. At its 27th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "External debt sustainability and development" (A/C.2/73/L.50), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Hessa Alateibi (United Arab Emirates), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.11.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.50 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.50 (see para. 8).

---

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols A/73/536, A/73/536/Add.1, A/73/536/Add.2, A/73/536/Add.3 and A/73/536/Add.4.

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.27.

18-21459 (E) 121218

Please recycle

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.50, draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

External debt sustainability and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, 66/189 of 22 December 2011, 67/198 of 21 December 2012, 68/202 of 20 December 2013, 69/207 of 19 December 2014, 70/190 of 22 December 2015, 71/216 of 21 December 2016 and 72/204 of 20 December 2017,

Noting the work of the United Nations in this area,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[3]

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability, debt transparency and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and acknowledging that debt crises are costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investment, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting the poor and vulnerable in particular,

---

[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[3] Resolution 63/303, annex.

Reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies, including in the area of debt management, is central to the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts, including to achieve development goals and to maintain debt sustainability, should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Reiterating that debt sustainability depends on a confluence of many factors at the international and national levels, and emphasizing that country-specific circumstances and the impact of external shocks, such as volatile commodity and energy prices, and of international capital flows, should continue to be taken into account in debt sustainability analyses,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy and the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, including the impact on development, cognizant that the global economy remains in a challenging phase, with many downside risks, including net negative capital flows from some emerging and developing economies, continued low commodity prices, high unemployment, in particular among young people, and rising private and public indebtedness in many developing countries, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date to attend to these challenges and to make progress towards sustaining global demand,

Expressing deep concern that global growth has remained strongly dependent on unprecedented increases in global debt stocks in the years since the global financial crisis, and, in conjunction with the fast integration of developing countries into international financial markets, including for purposes of debt refinancing, exposes a growing number of developing economies to highly sensitive and amplified reactions to even mildly adverse economic developments, or the perception of such, in financial markets,

Underlining that, globally, the gross domestic product growth rate could increase significantly if every country achieved gender equality, and recognizing that the economic and social losses owing to a lack of progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are significant,

Recognizing the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention, management and resolution tools,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4] reiterating that severe natural disasters and social or economic shocks can undermine a country's debt sustainability, and noting that public creditors have taken steps to ease debt repayment obligations through debt rescheduling and debt cancellation following an earthquake or a tsunami and in the context of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, and encouraging consideration of further debt relief steps, where appropriate, and/or other measures for countries affected in this regard, as feasible,

Expressing deep concern that a number of countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as some middle-income countries, face challenges in servicing their debt and that, in spite of international

[4] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

efforts, a growing number of developing countries continue to struggle with high debt burdens and are classified, in accordance with the debt sustainability assessments, as being in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress,

Taking note of the operational guidelines for sustainable financing promoted by the Group of 20, while urging the Group to continue to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with other States Members of the United Nations in its work, in order to ensure that the initiatives of the Group complement or strengthen the United Nations system, and noting the progress achieved in the implementation of the operational guidelines,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Emphasizes* the special importance of timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and development;

3. *Recognizes* the importance, in particular, of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external debt sustainability arising from structural changes to overall debt composition, the rapid growth of private sector debt in many emerging and developing countries and the growing use of new debt financing instruments and approaches;

4. *Notes* the growing concerns about fast-rising corporate debt, high-risk exposure to volatile international financial markets and fast-growing debt servicing burdens as potential triggers of financial and debt crises and the consequent need for coordinated policy responses;

5. *Stresses* the dual responsibility of creditors and debtor countries to avoid a build-up of unsustainable debt so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis, taking into account the challenges posed by the global economic environment and risks for debt sustainability in some developed and developing countries, and the need to continue to assist developing countries in this regard;

6. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, jointly developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to guide borrowing and lending decisions, and welcomes the approval in 2017 of the comprehensive reform of the Framework, which aims to improve its assessment of a country's debt carrying capacity by incorporating additional country specific information and methodological advances to increase the accuracy in the prediction of debt distress;

7. *Reiterates* that no single indicator should be used to make definitive judgments about a country's debt sustainability, and, in view of the new challenges and vulnerabilities for developing countries' external debt sustainability, substantiated by the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and recent joint analyses of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, stresses the need for improved data collection and quality in areas that include domestic public debt and domestic and external private debt, as well as legal and regulatory features, such as ownership, currency denomination and jurisdiction according to national priorities;

8. *Also reiterates* that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises, calls for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect and release data, where appropriate, welcomes the ongoing work of relevant institutions to apply innovative tools for monitoring

[5] A/73/180.

financial stress in developing countries and to create a central data registry that includes information on debt restructuring, and calls for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation programmes aimed at increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to conduct analytical activities and to provide policy advice and technical assistance to Governments, upon request, in the areas of managing debt, and operating and maintaining databases, and in this regard recalls that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should continue its analytical and policy work and technical assistance on debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, so that this extends not only to improvements in the timeliness and accuracy of debt data recording, but also to the enhanced coverage of public sector and other relevant debt data, including, in particular, heretofore unrecorded or hidden debt instruments, contingent liabilities and more complex debt instruments;

10. *Stresses* the need to strengthen information-sharing and transparency among all creditors and borrowers to make sure that debt sustainability assessments are based on comprehensive, objective and reliable data, including an assessment of national public and private debt, in order to ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals, encourages further improvement of the mutual exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, on borrowing and lending among all creditors and borrowers, and takes note of the Paris Forum initiative, which is aimed at gathering together sovereign creditors and debtors to share views and information, promoting greater debt transparency and preserving debt sustainability;

11. *Recognizes* that the long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, economic growth, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the export prospects of debtor countries, sustainable debt management, sound macroeconomic policies that also support job creation, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and success in overcoming structural development problems, and hence on the creation of an enabling environment at all levels that is conducive to development, and also recognizes the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability;

12. *Notes with concern* that some low- and middle-income developing countries that were not part of the existing debt relief initiatives now have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, indicating a need to consider, as appropriate, stronger debt management initiatives for those countries, and stresses the importance of medium- and long-term debt sustainability to deal with bilateral and non-Paris Club debt;

13. *Underlines* the fact that heavily indebted poor countries eligible for debt relief will not be able to enjoy the full benefits unless all creditors, both public and private, contribute to debt workouts, as appropriate, in order to ensure the debt sustainability of those countries, and invites creditors, both private and public, that are not yet fully participating in debt relief initiatives to substantially increase their participation, including by providing comparable treatment, to the extent possible, to debtor countries that have concluded sustainable debt relief agreements with creditors;

14. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when

applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, acknowledges that sound debt management initiatives can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and with the promotion of sustained economic growth and development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard urges countries to direct the resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards achieving those objectives, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to their national priorities and strategies;

15. *Notes* that countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help to mitigate the adverse impacts of a debt crisis and stabilize macroeconomic developments;

16. *Acknowledges* the efforts of, and invites creditors to provide additional flexibility to, developing countries affected by natural disasters so as to allow them to address their national debt concerns, while taking into account their specific economic and social situations and needs;

17. *Recognizes* that the detrimental impact of disasters on the debt sustainability of many least developed countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries warrants further attention and that preserving external debt sustainability requires ex ante financing to enable the systematic reduction of disaster risk and resilience-building, as well as the disclosure of disaster risk to avoid exacerbating debt distress, when feasible, and in this regard recognizes that many least developed countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries have limited access to financing to invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience before and after disasters;

18. *Also recognizes* the importance of the creation of robust, nationally appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for sustainable national and municipal borrowing, on the basis of sustainable debt management, supported by adequate revenues and capacities, by means of local creditworthiness, as well as expanded sustainable municipal debt markets, when appropriate, and in this regard underlines the importance of the establishment of appropriate financial intermediaries for urban financing, such as regional, national, subnational and local development funds or development banks, including pooled financing mechanisms, which can catalyse public and private, national and international financing;

19. *Underlines* the importance of multilateral efforts to tackle increasingly complex cross-border challenges that have serious effects on development and debt sustainability;

20. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations and of the international financial institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained and inclusive growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries, including through continued monitoring of global financial flows and their implications in this regard;

21. *Reiterates* that debtors and creditors must work together in a transparent manner to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations and that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, acknowledges that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, and in this regard takes note of the principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing of the United Nations Conference on

Trade and Development, recognizes the applicable requirements of the debt limits policy of the International Monetary Fund and/or the non-concessional borrowing policy of the World Bank and the safeguards of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in its statistical system to enhance the debt sustainability of recipient countries, and resolves to work towards a global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives;

22. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts to prevent and mitigate the prevalence and cost of debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, encourages the private sector to cooperate in this regard, and invites creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments such as debt swaps, including debt for equity in Sustainable Development Goal projects, as well as debt indexation instruments;

23. *Notes* the holding of the ninth Debt Management Facility Stakeholders' Forum in Brussels on 28 and 29 May 2018, and encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to continue their analytical and policy work and technical assistance on debt issues and to promote policies for responsible, sustainable and transparent sovereign borrowing and lending, as appropriate;

24. *Expresses its concern* regarding the ability of non-cooperative minority bondholders to disrupt the will of the large majority of bondholders who accept a restructuring of a debt-crisis country's obligations, given the potential broader implications in other countries, notes legislative steps taken by certain countries to prevent these activities and encourage all Governments to take action, as appropriate, and, furthermore, takes note of discussions in the United Nations on debt issues;

25. *Encourages* Governments to be mindful of the ability of non-cooperative minority bondholders to block a restructuring of a debt-crisis country's obligations, and encourages debtors and creditors to work together to draft bond agreements accordingly;

26. *Welcomes* the reforms to pari passu and collective action clauses proposed by the International Capital Market Association and endorsed by the International Monetary Fund to reduce the vulnerability of sovereigns to holdout creditors, encourages countries to take further action to include those clauses in all their bond issuances, and welcomes the continued work of the International Monetary Fund to monitor the uptake of the clauses and explore options for resolving the issue with the outstanding stock of debt without such clauses;

27. *Recalls* that the United Nations, as a universal intergovernmental body, has provided a platform for both creditors and debtors to discuss ways to improve external debt sustainability, requests the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up to organize a substantive expert debate among the major institutional stakeholders on how to improve debt sustainability and debt restructuring, and in this regard invites continued ongoing cooperation among the international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund, relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and other relevant forums, in accordance with their respective mandates, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on this matter;

28. *Also recalls* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development, notes its meeting held in Geneva in November 2018, at which the issue of debt sustainability was an item for deliberation, and recalls the request that the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts be presented as a regular input to the forum on financing for development follow-up;

29. *Reiterates* the invitation to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give appropriate consideration to the central role of maintaining and facilitating the financial and macroeconomic stability of developing countries, including debt sustainability, and of supporting an appropriately enabling domestic and international economic, financial and regulatory environment for the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard invites all major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

30. *Invites* donor countries, taking into account country-specific debt sustainability analyses, to continue their provision of concessional and grant-based financing to developing countries, which could contribute to debt sustainability in the medium to long term, and notes the provision by the International Monetary Fund of interest relief to eligible developing countries in the form of zero-interest loans;

31. *Invites* the international community to continue efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in developing countries to enhance sustainable upstream and downstream debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and through supporting legal advice in relation to tackling external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained;

32. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in cooperation with the regional commissions, regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders, to continue and intensify cooperation in respect of activities relating to capacity-building and to early warning monitoring systems in developing countries in the area of debt management and debt sustainability, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

33. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations system to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those related to the question of the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in his report an assessment of the potential impact of investment requirements to meet the Sustainable Development Goals on developing countries' external debt sustainability, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "External debt sustainability and development", unless otherwise agreed.

United Nations A/73/536/Add.4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 18 (d)

Macroeconomic policy questions: promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 18 (see A/73/536, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 23rd and 27th meetings, on 8 November and 3 December 2018. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.19 and A/C.2/73/L.19/Rev.1 and amendments contained in document A/C.2/73/L.57

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development" (A/C.2/73/L.19).

3. At its 27th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/73/L.19/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, made a

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols A/73/536, A/73/536/Add.1, A/73/536/Add.2, A/73/536/Add.3 and A/73/536/Add.4.

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.27.

Please recycle

statement and introduced a proposed amendment to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.19/Rev.1, as contained in document A/C.2/73/L.57.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that document A/C.2/73/L.57 had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 27th meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendment contained in document A/C.2/73/L.57 by a recorded vote of 121 to 44, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Turkey.

7. At the same meeting, after the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States members of the European Union.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.19/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at its 27th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.19/Rev.1 (see para. 11).

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Austria, on behalf of the States members of the European Union, the representative of the United States of America, who also spoke on behalf of Japan regarding a particular point, and the representatives of Nigeria, Liechtenstein and the Republic of Korea.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[1] which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full and effective implementation, including full support for the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2]

Recalling its resolutions 65/169 of 20 December 2010, 71/213 of 21 December 2016 and 72/207 of 20 December 2017,

Recalling also its resolutions 71/208 of 19 December 2016 and 72/196 of 19 December 2017,

Reiterating its deep concern about the impact of illicit financial flows, in particular those caused by tax evasion, corruption and transnational organized crime, on the economic, social and political stability and development of societies, and especially on developing countries,

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[2] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

Recognizing the challenge posed by the increasing scope and complexity of illicit financial flows and the need for the recovery and return of stolen assets, which necessitates international cooperation,

Reaffirming the importance of chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and underlining that the recovery and return of stolen assets pursuant to that chapter is a fundamental principle of the Convention,

Recognizing the work carried out by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in particular its Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, to advance the full implementation of chapter V of the Convention,

Taking note of the technical resources produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative,

Encouraging States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to make full use of the asset recovery tools set forth in chapter V of the Convention, including mechanisms for the enforcement of foreign restraining and confiscation orders, as a means of significantly reducing expenses that a State party may normally incur in pursuing asset recovery,

Calling upon all States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular requesting and requested States, to cooperate to recover the proceeds of crime, as defined in the Convention, and to demonstrate their strong commitment to ensuring the return or disposal of such proceeds, in accordance with article 57 of the Convention,

Recognizing that combating illicit financial flows involves an essential development challenge, and emphasizing that illicit financial flows reduce the availability of valuable resources for financing for development,

Recognizing also that global knowledge on the importance of combating illicit financial flows and enhancing the return of assets is rapidly increasing, as is the political will to recover illicitly acquired assets by both requesting and requested States, and noting that while many challenges remain unresolved, tackling them effectively requires a holistic approach that recognizes the different types of illicit financial flows and their impact on sustainable development,

Recognizing further the important work undertaken by academia and civil society, including the International Centre for Asset Recovery and the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, in assisting Member States in understanding the challenges associated with the return of stolen assets under chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts by regional organizations and other relevant international forums to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows,

Taking note of the 2018 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development,[3]

Welcoming the establishment of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax to intensify collaboration and coordination on tax issues between the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, including on formalizing regular discussions between the four international organizations on the design and

[3] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018*, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.I.5).

implementation of standards for international tax matters and on the strengthening of their ability to provide capacity-building support to developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and its relevant contributions in increasing knowledge on the sources of illicit financial flows, while reiterating its invitation to other regions to carry out similar exercises,

Noting with appreciation the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union to declare 2018 as the African Anti-Corruption Year and the appointment of an Anti-Corruption Champion,

Keeping in mind, therefore, that there are different sources of illicit financial flows and that separate analysis of each source is more beneficial in designing policy responses to prevent illicit financial flows,

Noting efforts to promote the exchange of information and synergy between the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Working Group on International Cooperation established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Noting also recent international developments on the implementation of the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters under common reporting standards developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and now involving more than 100 countries, as well as the role of the 154 members of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, which enables cooperation on an equal footing,

1. *Welcomes* the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] of, inter alia, the target related to combating illicit financial flows, recalls that the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard looks forward to their achievement;

2. *Notes* the inclusion in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[5] of actions intended to combat illicit financial flows, and, in this regard, looks forward to their implementation;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to work to strengthen regulatory frameworks at all levels in accordance with international standards and to further increase transparency and accountability of financial institutions and the corporate sector, as well as public administrations;

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of Member States to enhance knowledge and broaden understanding of the challenges and opportunities involved in international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption so as to foster sustainable development;

5. *Notes* that developing countries are particularly susceptible to the negative impact of illicit financial flows;

6. *Acknowledges* that combatting illicit financial flows requires a range of actions that includes deterring, detecting, preventing and countering such flows;

7. *Notes* that new technologies have opened the door for a growing number of people in developing countries to access digital financial services and can both

[4] Resolution 70/1.

[5] Resolution 69/313, annex.

increase efficiency in revenue collection and strengthen the fight against illicit financial flows;

8. *Expresses its concern* that virtual assets are increasingly being used for illicit activities, and in this regard encourages Member States and other relevant organizations to consider taking measures to prevent and counter their illicit use;

9. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[6] and also urges States parties to those Conventions and Protocols to make efforts towards their effective implementation;

10. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Encourages* further efforts by relevant national and international actors to mitigate transfer pricing not in line with the arm's length principle and trade mis-invoicing and to avoid base erosion and profit shifting, bearing in mind the need for developing countries to strengthen their domestic resource mobilization in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

12. *Encourages* countries and relevant multilateral and international organizations to continue their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance and capacity-building assistance to developing countries in order to improve their capacity to prevent, detect and combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development;

13. *Encourages* greater international cooperation to support African and other regional initiatives to combat illicit financial flows;

14. *Calls upon* all countries to cooperate, in accordance with applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements, in the areas of mutual legal assistance and administrative assistance in tax matters, as well as the automatic exchange of financial account information;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced capacity for data collection and analysis to combat illicit financial flows, emphasizing the need to increase the exchange of data within national Government institutions as well as from international institutions;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other institutions, to develop a methodology to produce estimates of the total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows;

17. *Reiterates its call* to the President of the General Assembly to convene, during the seventy-third session of the Assembly, within existing resources and in coordination with all relevant stakeholders, a high-level meeting on international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on asset return to foster sustainable development;

18. *Notes* that international cooperation in combating illicit financial flows is a work in progress that must continue to be pursued, and encourages all countries to develop effective tools and create a policy environment for combatting illicit financial flows, in accordance with the existing relevant international frameworks, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

---

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

19. *Notes with concern* that proceeds emanating from offences established under the United Nations Convention against Corruption have yet to be disposed of in favour of the legitimate owners and victims of the crimes, and pledges to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption, increase transparency and promote good governance;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the first meeting of the Global Forum on Asset Recovery, which took place in December 2017, supported by the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, a joint initiative of the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and welcomes the adoption of the Global Forum on Asset Recovery communiqué;

21. *Stresses* that anti-corruption measures should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies;

22. *Looks forward* to the inclusion, in the 2019 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, of an analysis of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development, pursuant to the mandate of the Task Force, and also looks forward to the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", a sub-item entitled "Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development", unless otherwise agreed.

United Nations A/73/537

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 19

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anneli **Lepp** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 8th and 9th meetings, on 11 October 2018. Action on the item was taken at its 23rd and 25th meetings, on 8 and 28 November. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1] Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, on 8, 9 and 10 October.[2]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the forum on financing for development follow-up, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 23–26 April 2018) (A/73/86-E/2018/68);

(b) Letter dated 4 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the forty-second annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 27 September 2018 (A/73/417);

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.8, A/C.2/73/SR.9, A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.25.

[2] See A/C.2/73/SR.2, A/C.2/73/SR.3, A/C.2/73/SR.4, A/C.2/73/SR.5 and A/C.2/73/SR.6.

18-21334 (E) 121218

Please recycle

(c) Letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held in New York on 26 September 2018 (A/73/455).

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.[3]

5. At the 27th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions adopted by the Committee.[4]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.17 and A/C.2/73/L.42

6. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development" (A/C.2/73/L.17).

7. At its 25th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development" (A/C.2/73/L.42), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Hessa Alateibi (United Arab Emirates), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.17.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.42 had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.42 (see para. 12).

10. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Japan.

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.42, draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

[3] See A/C.2/73/SR.23.
[4] See A/C.2/73/SR.27.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 70/192 of 22 December 2015, 71/217 of 21 December 2016 and 72/208 of 20 December 2017 on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development and its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reiterating the affirmation in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and attaining the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of addressing the diverse needs of and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Welcoming the convening of the third annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up from 23 to 26 April 2018,

Recalling the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum,[2] which decided that the fourth Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up would convene from 15 to 18 April 2019 and would include the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and also that the 2019 forum would consider and report in its outcome document on the need to hold a follow-up conference,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council decision E/2017/206 of 5 October 2016,

Noting the sixth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, held in New York on 21 and 22 May 2018, and its outcomes,[3]

Noting also the high-level meeting of the Secretary-General on financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in New York on 24 September 2018, and the presentation of the strategy of the Secretary-General for financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018–2021), and looking forward to regular updates by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the strategy,

Looking forward to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019,

Looking forward also to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which will be held back-to-back with the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly,

1. *Emphasizes* the need to work towards the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[4]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development,[5] and notes that progress, though uneven, has been reported in all seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, while acknowledging that many implementation gaps persist;

3. *Welcomes* the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up,[2] urges their full, effective and timely implementation, and looks forward to staying engaged so as to assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges in the implementation of the financing for development outcomes and in the delivery of the means of implementation, promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels, address new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of this agenda as the need arises and provide policy recommendations for action by the international community in substantive intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations at the 2019 forum;

4. *Looks forward* to the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 2019 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

---

[2] See E/FFDF/2018/3.

[3] See E/2018/73.

[4] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[5] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.I.5).

5. *Invites* the President of the Economic and Social Council to begin early planning of the 2019 forum on financing for development follow-up;

6. *Recalls* that decisions relating to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up are to be contained within the forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

7. *Takes note* of the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the initial contributions made by India to the voluntary trust fund and the contribution by the European Union and other countries supporting the Committee's subsidiary bodies, and urges Member States to come forward to contribute more to the trust fund in order to support the participation of developing countries;

8. *Welcomes* the holding of the 2018 Global Infrastructure Forum in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 October 2018, and reiterates that the Forum is mandated to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries;

9. *Also welcomes* the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, which is important, inter alia, in helping to facilitate the development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the Goals, looks forward to the establishment of the online platform as part of the Mechanism, and welcomes the progress made in operationalizing the technology bank for the least developed countries;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the convening of the third annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in New York on 5 and 6 June 2018, whose Co-Chairs' summary[6] served as an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and highlighted, inter alia, the promotion of networking and matchmaking among relevant stakeholders, especially innovators, funders and other supporters, to bridge the technology gap for the Sustainable Development Goals;

11. *Recalls* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize the means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the implementation of which requires following up on, that relate to its seven action areas, namely domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building; and data, monitoring and follow-up;

12. *Notes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, whose agreed policy recommendations serve as an input to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up in accordance with the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts;

13. *Welcomes* the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of co-facilitators to consult with Member States on the substantive work, including the possible outcome, of the 2019 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of

[6] See E/HLPF/2018/6.

the General Assembly, and invites the President to keep Member States updated on the developments of the process;

14. *Takes note* of the joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, held on 14 September 2018, regarding the issues to be addressed in the thematic chapter of the 2019 and 2020 reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a summary report synthesizing the findings of the first four reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and the results as well as the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the four Economic and Social Council forums on financing for development follow-up as an input to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the General Assembly in 2019 and the discussions of the Second Committee during the seventy-fourth session;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development", unless otherwise agreed.